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**BEFORE THE  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

**RECEIVED**

OCT 15 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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**In the Matter of**

**Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service**  
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**CC Docket No. 96-45**

**NOMINATION OF THE  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGULATORY UTILITY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE RURAL TASK FORCE**

Pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC" or "Commission")  
September 17, 1997 Release Number FCC 97J-1, titled "*Federal-State Joint Board on Universal  
Service Announces the Creation of a Rural Task Force; Solicits Nominations for Membership on  
Rural Task Force*", in the above captioned docket, the National Association of Regulatory Utility  
Commissioners ("NARUC") respectfully submits this nomination for the State commission slot  
on the new task force.

In support of this request, NARUC states as follows:

**I. Description of NARUC's Interests and Representational Role**

**NARUC has long been recognized by Congress, the Courts, and the FCC as the proper  
party to represent the collective interests of the State regulatory commissions.**

The FCC's September 17, 1997 notice expressly contemplates the appointment of one  
State regulator as its so-called "Category 6." NARUC is the appropriate body to nominate the  
director to represent state regulators.

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Founded in 1889, NARUC's members include those governmental bodies responsible for regulating carriers and utilities in all fifty States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. NARUC's mission is to improve the quality and effectiveness of public utility regulation in America. Specifically, NARUC is composed of, inter alia, State and territorial officials charged with regulating telecommunications common carriers within their respective borders. These officials have the obligation to assure that communications services and facilities required by the public convenience and necessity are established, and that service is furnished at just and reasonable rates.

NARUC's responsibilities are nationwide and involve a broad spectrum of regulatory problems and responsibilities unique to it as an organization. In statutory language of the Congress, NARUC is "the national organization of the State commissions" responsible for economic and safety regulation of the intrastate operation of carriers and utilities. Indeed, NARUC is the organization designated by Congress to nominate State Commission representatives to all the FCC Federal State Joint Boards and Conferences, including the Board charged with implementing the provisions of the 1996 Act governing the USAC Board of Directors activities. Moreover, Federal courts have long recognized that the NARUC is a proper party to represent the collective interests of the State regulatory commissions. *See, for example, United States of America v. Southern Motor Carrier Rate Conference, et al.*, 467 F.Supp. 471 (N.D. Ga. 1979), *aff.* 672 F.2d 469 (5th Cir. Unit "B" 1982); *aff. en banc*, 702 F.2d 532 (5th Cir. Unit "B" 1983, *rev'd*, 471 U.S. 48 (1985). *See also Indianapolis Power and Light Co. v. Interstate Commerce Commission*, 587 F.2d 1098 (7th Cir. 1982); *Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v. FCC*, 513 F.2d 1142 (9th Cir. 1976).

**II. NARUC Nomination For RTF Membership**

**A. NARUC's Nomination**

In accordance with Section 25 of NARUC's "Policy Governing Committees and Representatives" [As Adopted by the 97th NARUC Annual Convention on November 20, 1985 (Convention Proceedings, pages 365-367) and amended November 14, 1990, and November 20, 1996], NARUC's current President, the Honorable Bruce B. Ellsworth, a Commissioner with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission, nominates the following as NARUC representative to the USAC Board of Directors:

**The Honorable William R. Gillis**, a Commissioner with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission and an active member of NARUC.

**B. Contact Information:**

The contact information for Mr. Gillis is as follows:

Commissioner William R. Gillis  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
Chandler Plaza Building  
Post Office Box 47250  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

Phone Number – General: 360.753.6423

Phone Number – Direct Line: 360.753.6440

Fax: 360.586.1150

Internet Address: [billg@wutc.wa.gov](mailto:billg@wutc.wa.gov)

**C. Biographical Information:**

Since his appointment in November of 1994, Mr. Gillis has been an active Commissioner on the Washington commission. Mr. Gillis received his BA and MS from Washington State University. Subsequently, he earned his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics at the University of Wisconsin. Before coming to the commission, Mr. Gillis was an Assistant Professor from 1983 to 1987 and a tenured Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics from 1987 to 1988 at Pennsylvania State University. From 1988 to 1991 he was the Director of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania and from 1991 up to his appointment in 1994, he was the President of The Gillis Group in Ritzvill, Washington.

**D. Required Service:**

The Notice requires nominations to be filed with the following:

"the Secretary of the Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554 and to Astrid Carlson, Federal Communications Commission, 2100 M Street, N.W., 8th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20554.... [and] to the individuals listed on the attached Service List."

The under-signed hereby certify

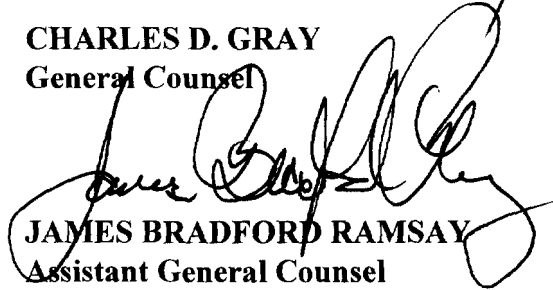
- (1) that service by hand-delivery to the offices of both the FCC Secretary and Chairman will be completed this 15th Day of October 1997 before 5:30 p.m. EDT; and

- (2) that Commissioner Gillis has agreed to actively participate in good faith as a member of this RTF.

**Respectfully submitted,**



**CHARLES D. GRAY**  
General Counsel



**JAMES BRADFORD RAMSAY**  
Assistant General Counsel

**National Association of  
Regulatory Utility Commissioners**

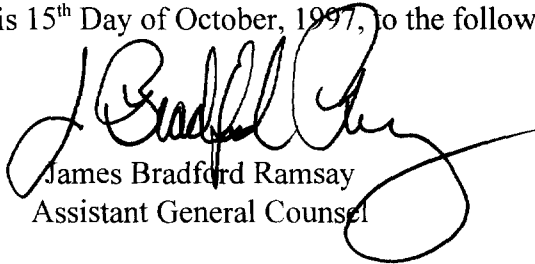
**1100 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Post Office Box 684  
Washington, D.C. 20044**

**(202) 898-2200**

**October 15, 1997**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, James Bradford Ramsay, hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing was mailed postage prepaid, via 1<sup>st</sup> class mail, this 15<sup>th</sup> Day of October, 1997, to the following listed persons.



James Bradford Ramsay  
Assistant General Counsel

Astrid Carlson  
Federal Communications Commission  
2100 M Street, N.W.  
8th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20554

The Honorable Julia Johnson, State Chair  
Chairman  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Gerald Gunter Building  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

The Honorable David Baker  
Commissioner  
Georgia Public Service Commission  
244 Washington Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30334-5701

The Honorable Laska Schoenfelder  
Commissioner  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
State Capitol, 500 East Capitol Street  
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

The Honorable Martha S. Hogerty  
Public Counsel  
Missouri [\*6] Office of Public Counsel  
301 West High Street, Suite 250  
P.O. Box 7800  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

**Nomination of William R. Gillis to the RTF**

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Charles Bolle  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
State Capitol, 500 East Capitol Street  
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Bridget Duff, State Staff Chair  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2450 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0866

Phillip F. McClelland  
Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate  
1425 Strawberry Square  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Tiane Sommer  
Georgia Public Service Commission  
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Sheryl Todd (plus 8 copies)  
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Accounting and Audits Division  
Universal Service Branch  
2100 M Street, N.W., Room 8611  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Rowland Curry  
Texas Public Utility Commission  
1701 North Congress Avenue  
P.O. Box 13326  
Austin, TX 78701

Ann Dean  
Maryland Public Service Commission  
16th Floor, 6 Paul Street  
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